



Program description

Master in Visual Anthropology

120 ECTS/Tromsø

The program description has been approved by the board of Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education. Renewed January 2023.



Study programme name	English: Master in Visual Anthropology
Degree obtained	Master in Visual Anthropology
Target group	Nordic and non-Nordic Applicants, with relevant Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) or equivalent qualification in anthropology, sociology, ethnology, folklore, cultural studies, visual culture or other closely related fields of study.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	Admission to UiT the Arctic University of Norway is regulated by: Regulations concerning admission to UiT The Arctic University of Norway Admission to the Master in Visual Anthropology requires a Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) or equivalent qualification with a minimum of 80 ECTS in anthropology, sociology, ethnology, folklore, cultural studies, visual culture or other closely related fields of study. Applicants must have a minimum grade average comparable to a Norwegian C (2,5) in the ECTS scale. Applicants should enclose a statement of purpose written in English (maximum of two pages). This statement should include the purpose for and interest in pursuing the master's degree programme, especially why you find visual anthropology interesting. It should also include a short description of a proposed master thesis project. Any experience from film making should also be mentioned in the motivation letter. Applicants with education from non-Nordic countries must document English language proficiency. You will find more information of English language requirements on our admissions pages.
The study programme's Learning Outcome	Knowledge <i>The candidate</i> • has knowledge of the evolution of the social scientific tradition in general, and advanced knowledge of theoretical perspectives within the field of Visual anthropology especially. • has thorough knowledge of the region and/or the field where his/her proper Master project takes place and solid knowledge of the cutting edge of his/her Master project's theme. • has thorough knowledge of ethnographic research methodology and the different steps in a research process which involves the use of the video camera. • can apply the acquired methods and theoretical perspectives in the description and analyses of new areas within the academic field of Visual Anthropology.

- can reflect critically on the use of different filmic languages and narrative structures as 'ways of knowing' in specific historical and societal contexts.
- has technical knowledge of how to handle and use the recording and editing equipment for video.

Skills

The candidate

- can in a systematic way manage, process and analyze critically material from various sources and use them to structure and formulate a written scholarly argument.
- Is able to capture the narrative conceptualizations of their field partners by the use of video and create intelligible narrative strategies with a future audience in mind.
- is able to demonstrate how film and text mutually inform, inspire, and contradict each other, and critically evaluate the role of film in the creation of social scientific knowledge.
- can under supervision carry out an independent research project which makes use of participant observation and audiovisual tools, with applicable norms for research ethics.
- is able to make use of video as a tool in the acquisition and dissemination of social scientific knowledge.

General competences

The candidate

- is able to identify, analyze and discuss different theoretical and methodological approaches to their own empirical material and apply it in the description and analysis of other sociocultural phenomena.
- masters the language and terminology of visual socio-cultural research and can communicate to colleagues, partners, and public audiences, the methodological/analytical approaches used in- and the final results of- his/her own work.
- is able to build up responsibility towards partners in the field and thereby a profound consciousness of the ethics and potentials for empowerment of research and dissemination.
- can contribute to new thinking and innovation processes based in the exploration of the possible potentials of visual and analytical tools.
- is in an independent way able to apply audiovisual tools creatively and critically to enhance/clarify their story narratives within a social science framework.

Academic content and description of the study programme	The Department of Social Science offers a two-year full-time Master's programme in Visual Anthropology (MVA). The programme combines lectures in academic theory and method, filmmaking and practical instruction in camerawork, sound recording and editing. Your own anthropological master research project is a central part of your MA in Visual Anthropology. You choose an area and a theme where you conduct fieldwork and make your video recordings/still photos. Working with audiovisual media, in addition to written text, gives unique possibilities to share insights about people and places on multiple registers. Audiovisual media invites for exciting and meaningful communication processes, with protagonists and multiple audiences, but filmmaking is also a time-consuming activity that asks for a lot of practicing on your own to master the craft. The first term is organized as a compressed, but complete research and dissemination process centered around practical exercises, a video-based mini-fieldwork and the editing of a short film story. Your own explorations of video-based research will be supported by classes on ethnographic methodology, ethnographic film history, video technique and cinematographic language. At the start of the second term, you get the chance to explore further some contemporary themes in social anthropology. Theory for your master project grows out of your involvements with the topic of your project, in the preparatory phase, in the field and after, but a general overview of theoretical perspectives is also necessary as it will expand your repertoire of possible interpretations of empirical conditions. In your preparations of the project description for you Master your focus, research questions, methodological approach and use of audio-visual media will be clarified. In the project description, you work on your initial ideas and transform them into a proper project design. Fieldwork plays a central part of the ethnographic project. Based on your fieldwork, you write a Master's Thesis and make an audio-visual narrative. For a complete setup of the programme, please refer to the Programme structure below.																				
Table: programme structure	<table><tr><th>Semester</th><th>10 ECTS</th><th>10 ECTS</th><th>10 ECTS</th></tr><tr><td>First term (Autumn)</td><td>SVF-3114 Introduction to ethnography and ethnographic film</td><td>SVF-3111 History of Ethnographic Film and Visual Anthropology</td><td>SVF-3110 Conveying social realities: Exploring audio-visual narrative strategies</td></tr><tr><td>Second term (Spring)</td><td>SVF-3115 Contemporary themes in Social Anthropology</td><td colspan="2">SVF-3109 Project description with fieldwork</td></tr><tr><td>Third term (Autumn)</td><td colspan="3">SVF-3903 From fieldwork experience to Ethnographic film and text</td></tr><tr><td>Fourth term (Spring)</td><td colspan="3">SVF-3903 From fieldwork experience to Ethnographic film and text</td></tr></table>	Semester	10 ECTS	10 ECTS	10 ECTS	First term (Autumn)	SVF-3114 Introduction to ethnography and ethnographic film	SVF-3111 History of Ethnographic Film and Visual Anthropology	SVF-3110 Conveying social realities: Exploring audio-visual narrative strategies	Second term (Spring)	SVF-3115 Contemporary themes in Social Anthropology	SVF-3109 Project description with fieldwork		Third term (Autumn)	SVF-3903 From fieldwork experience to Ethnographic film and text			Fourth term (Spring)	SVF-3903 From fieldwork experience to Ethnographic film and text		
Semester	10 ECTS	10 ECTS	10 ECTS																		
First term (Autumn)	SVF-3114 Introduction to ethnography and ethnographic film	SVF-3111 History of Ethnographic Film and Visual Anthropology	SVF-3110 Conveying social realities: Exploring audio-visual narrative strategies																		
Second term (Spring)	SVF-3115 Contemporary themes in Social Anthropology	SVF-3109 Project description with fieldwork																			
Third term (Autumn)	SVF-3903 From fieldwork experience to Ethnographic film and text																				
Fourth term (Spring)	SVF-3903 From fieldwork experience to Ethnographic film and text																				

Learning activities, examination and assessment	The programme is organised as a continuous participatory learning process: lectures, screenings, writing and video/still-photo assignments, and seminars make up the unique cumulative learning process of the two year programme. Students are encouraged to collaborate with each other in developing skills and understandings throughout the study. The programme includes various types of exams and coursework requirements, such as essays, research papers, and film presentations. Please note that some courses have coursework requirements. Only students whose coursework requirements have been approved will be allowed to sit the examination. Teaching and assessment methods are described in the course plan for each course. This Master's degree is an intensive programme. All courses are compulsory and demand active participation from the students.
The study programme's relevance	This programme qualifies for studies at PhD-level. A degree in Visual Anthropology can open doors to a variety of national and international positions in social research, television and film production, administration, communication, museums, youth and education programmes, etc. Studying in such an international environment develops competences in cross-cultural communication as well as valuable assets to a number of career options.
Work scope	Set curriculum makes a fulltime study for 2 years, approximately 1500-1800 workhours per year.
For master's theses/independent work in master's degrees	The degree includes 60 ECTS which must be earned by writing a Master's Thesis and producing an audio-visual . During the first year each student chooses a topic in consultation with one of the academic staff, who will serve as a supervisor. Students conduct field work at the end of the first year, and during the second year students work with their thesis and film under supervision. The final examination consists of the following elements: - Film of maximum 30 minutes duration - Master's Thesis (50 pages +/-) - Oral examination (about 60 minutes) The evaluation of the film and the thesis will count equally, and an oral exam will follow to adjust or confirm the evaluation. Grading will be on the scale A to F, where F=Fail.
Language of instruction and examination	English
Student exchange	Students have the possibility to carry out their fieldwork abroad.

Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	Department of Social Sciences
Quality assurance	The study programme and individual courses belonging to it are regularly evaluated, through various student feedback channels, as well as annual programme board meetings.

